

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/639,441

Examiner

Binh-An D. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

OKUNIEWICZ, DOUGLAS M.

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Appeal Brief filed May 14, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Applicant's remarks filed in the Appeal Brief of May 14, 2004 have been found persuasive and have overcome the rejection set forth in the Office action sent October 9, 2003.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The limitations of a printing and dispensing bonusing system for electronic gaming devices, said system comprising: at least one detection means to detect selected event occurrences on an electronic apparatus and output event occurrence notification signals upon detection of an event; event detection sampling means operative to detect and receive event occurrence notification signals from said detection means and output event occurrence information signals including information specifying selected event occurrences; event occurrence information signal computing means operative to receive and analyze said selected event occurrence information signals output by said event detection sampling means and upon detection of selected event occurrence notification signals, output command signals for initiating operation of at least one bonus printing/dispensing device; and said at least one bonus printing/dispensing device independent of a standard output device of the electronic gaming device and operative to accept command signals from said programmable event occurrence information signal computing device and to print and dispense bonus information and awards resulting from selected events occurring on the electronic gaming device whereby an operator/player of the electronic gaming device is awarded

selected bonus information and awards, in combination with other presented limitations, are neither disclosed nor taught by the art of record.

Claims 1-10, therefore, are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Claims 1-10 of this application are asserted by applicant to correspond to claims 1-6, 8, 9, 10, 13, and 14 (Applicant's proposed Count 1) and claims 17-22, 24-27, 29, and 32-34 (Applicant's proposed Count 2) of U.S. Patent No. 6,113,098.

The examiner does not consider these claims to be directed to the same invention as that of U.S. Patent No. 6,113,098 because the limitations as claimed by the applicant do not correspond to the claimed limitations of claims 1-6, 8, 9, 10, 13, and 14 (Applicant's proposed Count 1) and claims 17-22, 24-27, 29, and 32-34. In Counts 1 and 2, the applicant's claims lack the combined limitations of means for receiving a wager; means for randomly determining at least one of a plurality of possible outcomes; means of providing a gaming award in a form selected from the group consisting of coins, currency, credits or redeemable tickets in response to said determining means; and means for dispensing tickets (or supplemental tickets) which is operable independent of said determining means (or said game award wherein said supplemental tickets are different from said gaming award) as claimed by Adam.


Accordingly, an interference cannot be initiated based upon this claim. See MPEP 2307 and MPEP 2308.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh-An D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-5713. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea Wellington can be reached on 703-308-2159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BN


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